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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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S/S-O:MR PERITO
NEA:EABINGTON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 215366

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 2543 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 26 AUG

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S E C R E T NICOSIA 2543

EXDIS

FOR S/S AND NEA ONLY FROM HOUGHTON AND MACK

E. O. 11652: DS
TAGS:PFOR LE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GEMAYEL

REF: NICOSIA 2491

1. WE CALLED ON PIERRE GEMAYAL AT HIS MOUNTAIN HOME IN BIFKFAYA ON AUGUST 23. HE BEGAN WITH A STERN LECTURE ABOUT HOW THE USG HAD DISAPPOINTED LEBANON BY NOT RETURNING THE LOYALTY WHICH LEBANON HAD ALWAYS SHOWN TOWARD THE U.S. HE SAID THAT LEBANON HAD EXPECTED THE USG TO ARRANGE A SECURITY FACE TO HELP NEUTRALIZE THE FIVE PERCENT OF
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LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS WHO WERE "SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS

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AND AGENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM". HE RETURNED AGAIN
AND AGAIN TO HIS THEME THAT LEBANON'S FOES ARE A TINY
MINORITY OF PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE MUSLINS WHOM THE
SOVIET AMBASSADOR ACTIVELY COORDINATES. HE DID NOT
HESITATE TO NAME NAMES -- JUMBLATT, HABASH, HOWATMEH,
AND JEBRIL. HE IMPLIED THHAT A DEAL COULD BE MADE WITH
ARAFAT AND THE TRADITIONAL MUSLIM LEADERS. THE PROBLEM
THERE, HE SAID, WAS THAT NEITHER ARAFAT NOR ANY OF THE
MUSLIM LEADERS CAN REALLY DELIVER THEIR DISUNITED CON-
STITUENCIES.

2. WHEN THE USG, IN GEMAYEL'S VIEW, FAILED TO HELP THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, THE GOL TURNED TO SYRIA. SHEIKH
PIERRE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ENTERTAINED DOUBTS ABOUT LETTING
THE SYRIANS IN, BUT AFTER A FOUR-HOUR TETE-A-TETE WITH ASAD
HE WAS MUCH IMPRESSED BY ASAD'S SINCERITY AND OBJECTIVES.
OTHER ARAB OR WESTERN FORCES, PROVIDED THEY WERE "HONEST"
IN SHARING SYRIA'S COMMITMENT TO HELP THE GOL RESTORE ITS
NATIONAL UNITY AND PUT THE CAIRO ACCORD INTO OPERATION,
COULD ASSIST THE SYRIAN FORCES. THE SYRIANS REQUIRE U.S.
ASSISTANCE TO FINISH THEIR TASK IN THE FORM OF U.S. PROTEC-
TION FROM
REACTIONS IN THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD.

3. WE ASKED GEMAYEL ABOUT THE REPORT IN "L'ORIENT"DE JOUR"
QUOTING HIS SON, AMIN, AS SAYING THAT INTERROGATIONS OF
PRISONERS CAPTURED AT TEL ZAATER ESTABLISHED THE IDENTITY
OF THE MURDERERS OF MELOY AND WARING. GEMAYEL SAID THIS
WAS NOT TRUE. NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE HAD BEEN OBTAINED.

4. GEMAYEL EXPRESSED FIRM IDEAS ON WHICH CHRISTIAN LEADERS
THE USG SHOULD DEAL WITH. THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN HIS
VIEW ARE HIMSELF, CHAMOUN, FRANGIEH AND PERE KASSIS. WE
CONCEDED THAT ONE SHOULD ADD SARKIS AND THE PATRIARCH
FOR PURPOSES OF PROTOCOL. CONTACTS WITH OTHERS, HE SAID,
ONLY HURTS THE FEELINGS OF THOSE WHO ARE LEFT OUT.
GEMAYEL VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF AS AN ENVOY TO MEET WITH
THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT COME
TO WASHINGTON FOR A MEETING AT A LOWER LEVEL.

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5. SHEIKH PIERRE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL TO THE USG TO DO
"SOMETHING NOW. THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE AND SOMEONE MUST PUT
IT OUT. OTHERWISE, LEBANON WILL BE DESTROYED." DILLERY
UNQTE KISSINGER

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